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ABSTRACT

This book describes the needs and potentials of children and youth from birth to age 21, based on a holistic understanding of what human beings are and can become. The description is based on the insights of three early twentieth-century spiritual teachers--Rudolf Steiner, Aurobindo Ghose, and Inayat Khan--whose works, the book claims, articulate a "common vision" of human growth, wholeness, and evolutionary change that provide a template for a profoundly postmodern way to raise and educate children. Chapter 1 of the book, "A Common Vision of Wholeness," delineates this common vision, while Chapter 2, "Life Stories," tells the life stories of Steiner, Aurobindo, and Inayat Khan. Chapters 3 through 8 provide a detailed examination of the single vision of each of these teachers, with particular focus on their recommended methods for child raising and education and the ways that people have applied these purposes, principles, and methods in schools. Chapter 9, "Three Visions of Human Nature: Commonality and Divergence," details the specific ways in which the three single visions of Inayat Khan, Aurobindo, and Steiner both agree and diverge in relation to their descriptions of human nature. Chapter 10, "Common Vision, Uncommon Sense," explores the three most important issues raised by differences among the three teachings and offers suggestions for applying these teachings today for the purpose of raising and educating whole children and youths and consciously participating in the co-evolutionary process. Contains 99 references. (EV)

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